NUMB. LXXVI.

THE PLAIN DEALER.

Quos Ego — Sed motos præstat componere fluctus. — VIRG.
Age, si hic non insanit satis sua sponte, instiga. — TEREN. AND.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11. 1724.

WHILE I was preparing to make good my Promise, in a late Paper, concerning the *African Company*; I receiv'd the following Letter; which has thrown me under a Necessity of Suspending the Execution of my Purpose, 'till I can argue the *Ladies* into a Humour of Supporting the Burthen of something, *very Grave*, upon the Comfort of its having been preceeded by something that was *very Whimsical*.

Mr. PLAINDEALER,

'I HAVE been One of your *Female* Readers, ever 'since your first Appearance; and, having begun 'to *take a Fancy* to you, was much concern'd, for 'your sake, when I saw you venturing upon *African* '*Stock*. Take my Word for it, You and I shall be '*both Losers*? Only I have lost *Money*: And the '*PLAIN-DEALER* will lose, but *Labour*.

'YOU may spare your self the Trouble of In'structing the *knowing* Gentlemen, who manage our 'Affairs, in that Country, how to *get*, *all that is to* '*be gotten*: And, since *no more than All*, can be hop'd 'for, away with your *Schemes* to *improve Trade*, and 'enable us to *improve Conversation*. — I remember 'a Story in one of your Papers, of a Widow, at '*Wapping*, that had brought over an *Elephant*, from '*Guinea*, that cou'd dance, *Moll Peatly*, *Overturn* '*Apple Baskets*, and play a cleverer Circle of Tricks 'than a whole Set of Managers, put together.— I re'member, too, there was a *Russian Bear*, in the same 'Paper, who came over to offer his Service among 'the *Italian Fidlers*, of our Haymarket *Orchiestra*: 'But was rejected, as I since heard, on the Remon'strance of some of their *Singers*, — That his Strokes 'were too *Masculine*, for their *Measure*. — Now, 'never trust me, if I was not a Thousand times more 'pleas'd, with your Account of these two *wonderful* '*Curiosities*, than I am like to be, with your expected '*Essay*, for the Improvement of our *African Traffick*.

'BUT, if you can prevail with the *Royal Com*'*pany* to Trade in something, which *we Women*, may 'find our Interest in; If, in their *Exports*, for Ex'ample, you cou'd include our Husbands, and disa'greeable Lovers: And, enrich the *Bills of Entry*, 'with any Privileges, Rights, or Benefits, *imported* '*Custom-free*, for the Use of the *SEX*, at home: In 'this Case, I cou'd read, with Patience, the most '*profound*, of your *Commercial Dissertations*, and so 'might come, in Time, to get *Gravity*, and *Breath*, 'enough to peruse *one Moiety* of an *Act* of *Parlia*'*ment*; or begin, and end, a *Church History*. — I 'am (in no small Terror, and Apprehension.)

SIR,

Yours, at all Points, proper,

LÆTITIA GAMBOL.

AS there is nothing, more easie, than to satisfie the Demand of this *Lady*; and I am, naturally, inclin'd to do every Thing in my Power to promote the *Pleasure*, or the *Interest*, of the *SEX*, I shall postpone, what I mean to say, further, on the Improvement of that *Company's Trade*, in *general*, 'till I have open'd a Prospect to this ungovernable Member of theirs, Mrs. *Letty Gambol*, of the many *Great*, and *Glorious* Advantages, which may be *imported*, as she desires, out of *Africa*, to our *Sea-Port Towns*; and thence, spread themselves, in due Time, over the Heart of this happy Kingdom; for the Ease, Emolument, and Distinction, of the *Women*, its *best MANUFACTURE*.

I Shall not confine my self to any single Part of *Africa*, but boldly, ransack that whole Continent, for a Purpose, so *Meritorious*. — It is the same Thing to me, whether the Commodities I enquire after, are the Products of *Wappo*, of *Popo*, or of *Ekke Tokki*; Provided only, That the *Goods* are as polite, and elegant, as the *Names*, I shall *load* as willingly at *Boffow*, or *Juffer*, as at *Quaqua*: nor shall I make any Difference, as to the Value I rate *Laudable Customs* at, from the One's having been the Prerogative of a *Bossum*, and the Other the Quality of an *Arompo*. Note, an *Arompo* is a *Man-Eater*; whence, no doubt, our *English* Word, *ROMP*: A private Remark, by the bye, for the particular Use and Instruction of the Lively *Mrs. Lætitia Gambol*!

THE

[Price Two Pence.]

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THE Sable *Toaſts* of thoſe Sunny Climates have ſuch *Choice* of Tempting Privileges, that I ſhall have Room, in this Paper, to recommend but a very few of them: I will, therefore, ſelect the Beſt; and begin with this *ARCH-CLAIM* of *Virginity, within the Tropicks*, that Girls, at Nine Years old, commence *Women*!

THE *Young Ladies*, too, in moſt Places, are at Liberty to diſpoſe, freely, of whatever may be call'd *Their own*: And, when, afterwards, they think of *Marrying, their Credit*, like that of other Traders, is rated the *higher*, by how much *wider*, and more *publickly*, They have carried on their *Dealing*.

I Think, no Doubt can ariſe, concerning the Welcome with which *Theſe Two valuable RIGHTS* will be receiv'd: But, not being *altogether ſo clear*, in my Opinion, concerning the *following*, I ſhall leave it to be weigh'd, maturely, How, far it may be *of Uſe AMONG US*, when I have explain'd, That it is a *Privilege to retire, from the Fatigue of Man's Society, after having been Mothers of Ten Children*,

THE Antient *Tryal, by bitter Waters*, has been more generally heard of, than approv'd, among our *Women* here at home, who, if not, perhaps, the *Deepeſt*, are, unqueſtionably, the *fineſt*, and the *pretieſt Caſuiſts*, in the Univerſe. But the Duskier Beauties, of *Negroland*, when under Accuſations of *too much good Nature*, have an Appeal, to *ſweeter Waters*, in Juſtification of their Innocence: For, in order to diſcover, to a jealous Husband, whether the Wife has been guilty, or not, ſhe is thrown, headlong, into a River: And if ſhe *drowns*, ſhe was a *Sinner*. But, it is a Remark, of great Conſolation, That there never was found a *Woman*, who had not *Lightneſs enough to Swim*; and eſcape the Malice of her Accuſers.

THERE is ſomething, too, in their agreeable Manner of *Mourning, for the Death of a Husband*, which deſerves to be offer'd to the Conſideration of the *SEX*, in theſe more *Phlegmatick, Northern*, Regions: And one wou'd wonder, indeed, how any thing, *ſo extravagantly Polite*, ſhou'd have got Footing, among People, who never Subſcrib'd, to an *Opera*. — The whole Term of ſuch *Mourning* is included within *Fourteen Days*: And the Ceremony conſiſts of *Cries*, which are modulated by the Tunes of Muſical Inſtruments; and accommodated (with a certain Equitable Dexterity) to the Eaſe of the *Performer*, and more lively Entertainment of the *Audience*; by large, intermediate, *Pauſes*, during which they drink Brandy, and ſmoke Tobacco, 'till their *Spirits* are duly rais'd, to expect when the Muſick begins again, for *another Act*, of the *Obſequies*.

BUT, above all their agreeable Cuſtoms, I contemplate, with moſt Reverence, the vaſt Extent of their *Charity*! There is, in it, an uncommon Profoundneſs; and a Tenderneſs of Heart, beyond Example! — It is a Practice, among the *Rich Negro Ladies*, on the *Gold Coaſt*, to give Orders, on their Death Beds, for buying up a Number of Female-Slaves, to beſtow on the *Publick*, as *Living Legacies*, whoſe whole Buſineſs it is, to be at Every Body's Service, *in One ſole Employment*, (which they are, All, equally, capable of) for the Price of *Three Periwincle-Shells*. — They conſider This, as a Work, of great Mercy, and Compaſſion; and, conſcious of their pious Purpoſe, cloſe their Eyes, and die, ſatisfied.

I Cou'd add an infinite Variety of ſuch uncommon Commodities as Theſe: But the Foregoing will ſerve, as *Samples*, of what *Rich Goods* may be imported, for the Uſes, which my Correſpondent hints at, if, in Right of her ſelf, and the *Ladies* ſhe acts for, ſhe cou'd propoſe any *Scheme* of *Engraftment*, by virtue whereof, the *Aſſiſtants* of the *Royal Company* might co-operate with the *Siſterhood*.

It is not to be queſtion'd, but, when ſuch a Scheme comes to be ſeen, the Directors of ſome other, of our more thriving *Societies* will *ſtir* againſt it, out of Envy, and propoſe their *own* reſpective *Bodies*, as moſt Capable of, or more adapted to, the mention'd *Incorporation*. But the Ladies will, I hope, have Honour enough to *keep cloſe* to their firſt Engrafters: And, leaſt their natural Diſpoſition *to think too meanly of Themſelves, and their own Reaſonings*, ſhould expoſe them, without Defence, to the Force of Arguments, they cannot anſwer, I will conclude this Eſſay for their Service with the Example of a *ROYAL AFRICAN His Majeſty, the King of* Boffoe; who, when his *Conſcience* was a little puzzled, brought himſelf off, by his *Reſolution*.

King *Yagou*, the abovemeant, was a Lover of the Female Sex; but being a Prince, of great Frugality, *contented* himſelf with *Ten Wives only*, when many of his Subjects had *Forty*; and, out of that ſmall Number, of Ten, would, now and then, for mere Good Husbandry, beſtow *One*, on his Son, *Jooſt*. —A *Portugueze Fryar*, to whom he was boaſting of theſe Great Qualities, repreſented to him the *Wickedneſs* of the Action; and aſſured him, That no *civiliz'd* Part of the World allow'd it. — At which, he laugh'd, very heartily, and return'd him this Anſwer — *Muſt I be a Fool, becauſe the White Men of your Country, are Fools? — My People are better inform'd; — and we act, in both Places, according to our different Underſtandings!*

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